

[25 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) the steps taken by Government in spreading awareness of toy standards of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS);

(b) whether any steps have been taken to monitor small scale industry which make toys;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would consider to set up laboratories all over India to check the standard of toys; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to find out the toys manufactured with PVC (poly vinyl chloride), arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Efforts by BIS made to spread awareness of the Indian standards relating to safety of toys include:—wide circulation of the draft standards by public comment;—interaction with concerned Government departments and Organizations such as the National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resources Development;—interaction with the Toy Manufacturers Association of India;—attending seminars on the subject of 'toy safety' at different places.

(b) and (c) The Development Commissioner of Small Scale Industries has been coordinating with the National Programme for the Development of the Indian Toy Industry, which envisages the setting up of a toy design and development institute, technology development of toy industries, etc.

(d) Testing facilities are reported to be available in laboratories managed by some private organizations. Testing facilities are also available with the Central Laboratory of the BIS, which are used primarily for product certification purposes.

(e) IS-9873 (part 3), 1999 prescribes the method of sampling of toys for elements like arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury etc. besides stipulating limits for these elements. The standard can be used for ascertaining whether toys in question meet the stipulated requirements.

Dispute between Ministries on wheat stock issue

3312. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge wheat stock is causing debate between the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and the Ministry of Finance on the ways and means of doing away with such surplus stock of wheat in the best possible way; and

(b) if so, what are the points of dispute and how these two Ministers are going to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir, There is no such debate/dispute between the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public distribution and Ministry of Finance on the ways and means of disposal of surplus stocks of wheat. This Ministry has fixed the issue price of FCI wheat under the open Market Sale Scheme in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Base Depots of FCI in Madhya Pradesh

† 3313. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of base depots of the Food Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh for supply of foodgrains under targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) whether these numbers of base depots are adequate to meet the requirement of the State;

(c) the names of those districts in the State where such base depots are not existing;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Food Corporation of India have any plan to set up more base depots in the State; and

(f) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (f) In Madhya Pradesh, there are 61 centres functioning under Targeted Public Distribution System for supply of foodgrains. Of these 37 are base depots and 24 BPL centres. These are adequate to meet the requirement of the State. The name of districts in the State where such base depots do not exist, are Bhind, Shivpur, Badwani, Mandsaur, Shajapur, Neemuch, Sehore, Raisen, Rajgarh, Harda, Panna, Umaria, Korba, Koriya, Kawardha and Dantewada. The reasons for non-existence of base depots is non-availability of godowns, railway siding and also creation of new districts from these districts.

Apart from this, procurement and supplies of foodgrains in the State, is being done under the Scheme of 'Decentralized Procurement of Foodgrains' by

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.